

let it be understood

i want no activity
besides fundamentals
no asking me to dinner
no chatter on stairs

everything
precisely arranged
in accordance
with my snow-white ideas
and artistic interpretation

no scratch-cat stuff
either
simply a ribbon
wavering from neck to knees
and pink toes
ascending the staircase
of my need.

— Parm Mayer

Pilgrims At The Shrine

Who, indeed, is who in Mrs. Kitty's zoo?
Said the flea to the nervous red ant
On the window ledge.

Well, I'll explain,
Said the nervous ant. The fat one
Boils the fish, shakes catnip on the paper.
The thin one supplies the money
When he's sober. The one that's middle-sized
And growing, only mopes.

Thank you,
Said the thoughtful flea,
For the lucid explanation. I prefer,
I think, a different destination.

— Leonard Gilley
Denver, Colorado